



Brenda Sims

# Walla Walla Public Schools Classroom Close-Up



TEACHER NAME: Brenda Sims

SCHOOL: Green Park Elementary

SUBJECT: Title 1/Reading Specialist

YEARS IN DISTRICT: 14 years

Q. How does this learning support program work?

A. We take a look at the data from the assessments we give to the students at the beginning of the school year. We identify the lower quartile of students and determine what we can do to bolster their knowledge.

Q. Who is involved in this process?

A. We use our specialists. At Green Park this also includes Linda Lohrmann, Bob Gregoire, Mary Jo Fontenot and our wonderful cadre of para-professionals. Our goal is to give the students in the lower quartile the extra help they need.

Q. How does it work?

A. They get their basic learning in their classrooms and then we give them extra support in their demonstrated challenges. I work with different groups of students at various grade levels throughout the day. Usually I work with groups of five or six students. I can provide support in all content areas, but today's group of 5th graders is focusing on math.

Q. How do you help them learn a complicated subject like math?

A. Good teachers have to be good salesmen. I give the students a lot of "rah, rahs" and pats on the back to build their confidence. These students need a lot of visuals and hands-on lessons to help them understand math concepts.

## COMMENTS FROM GREEN PARK PRINCIPAL MIKE LAMBERT:

"If Brenda Sims were a professional baseball player she definitely would be an "all pro" utility player!! She coordinates, facilitates, and integrates all aspects of our school improvement process to assure that the academic needs of every Green Park student is being met."

Over



## MOMENTS & MEMORIES FROM BRENDA SIM'S CLASS:



### COMMENTS FROM BRENDA...

Our kids sometimes feel intimidated when they are with a large group of students who are working at grade level. If they're working with a group of students who are at their skill level, they have the opportunity to shine, to be the leader, and be able to say 'oh, I get it!'

The beauty of this program is I often have the same students for several years. I already have a relationship established, so I'm able to progress into the concepts much quicker.



Everyone learns at a different pace.

We demonstrate through data that the students I work with can perform at high academic levels. They just need additional time and support.